

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

9. (currently amended) In a microscope having a non-scanning illumination device for illuminating a subject over a field of view by directing light along an illumination beam path through a main objective of said microscope or in a region of a main objective of said microscope, and a plurality of optical components which includes an assembly of optical elements in said illumination beam path which diffract or refract the light, the improvement comprising:

a mechanism for removing said assembly from said illumination beam path such that no optical element which diffracts or refracts the light, or which emits light, replaces the removed assembly in the illumination beam path so that a reduction of light intensity incident upon the subject over the field of view occurs because of the removal of said assembly.

Claim 10-15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A method of reducing light intensity incident upon a subject over a field of view comprising:

providing a microscope having a non-scanning illumination device for illuminating the subject over the field of view by directing light along an illumination beam path through a main objective of said microscope or in a region of a main objective of said microscope;

providing a plurality of optical components which includes an assembly of optical elements in said illumination beam path which diffract or refract the light,

removing said assembly from said illumination beam path such that no optical element which diffracts or refracts the light, or which emits light, replaces the removed assembly in the illumination beam path so that a reduction of light intensity incident upon the subject over the field of view occurs because of the removal of said assembly.